

URJ Heller High School in Israel – Covid 19 Protocols

Please note that these protocols are based on the current Israeli Ministry of Health requirements and guidelines, which are subject to change without notice.

Arrival and the First Two Weeks

On arrival in Israel, the students will be transported to Kibbutz Tzuba. Three students will share a suite, and students in adjacent suites will form the six person pod, which will be their quarantine group. Students will be permitted to leave their rooms only under the supervision of a staff member, and provided there is no interaction with students in other pods or other people unless they are separated by a plastic sheet (such as will be used to divide the student lounge into separate areas for each pod).

Any time students leave their rooms, they will be required to wear a mask. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be provided to each of the rooms. The rooms will be cleaned daily, and students will also be required to wipe down various surfaces frequently.

Each pod will be taken out daily for a walk. There are various places on the kibbutz that can be visited without interacting with others. Students will have their meals brought to them in their rooms.

The counselors, who will be living on the kibbutz, will organize icebreakers and other activities (mainly online) and will be available if students should need assistance with any part of the experience. We understand that the stress of being in quarantine will be added to the challenges involved in adapting to a new country, environment, social group, etc., so we will provide as much support as the students need.

After the first two or three days, classes will begin. Until the end of the quarantine period, all classes will be online. Afterwards, most will be in person.

Any student who requires medical care, will have access to the nurse on the Kibbutz and, if necessary, a doctor nearby. Students will be accompanied on any nurse or doctor visit by a counselor.

Life After Quarantine

After the two-week quarantine period, it will no longer be necessary to practice strict social distancing within the group. The counselors and students will be considered one unit. When interacting with people outside of this unit, and outside of the students' rooms or the student lounge, social distancing and masks will still be required. Classes will revert to in-person (except for a few of the general studies classes which will be online) and the students will start taking their field trips.

Provision for Students Who Become Ill

It happens that students who live in a dorm environment get ill (common cold, stomach bugs, etc.). We are very experienced in providing / arranging medical care in circumstances like this. If a student becomes sick with Covid 19, we would move that person into a separate room and arrange for any other student or staff member who has been in contact with the sick student to be tested and, if the medical authorities deem it necessary, quarantined. Like during the initial quarantine, staff members will be on hand to take care of all the student's needs.

Changes to the Program Due to Covid 19

The biggest change is that, at this stage, we cannot go to Poland. Even if there were flights, going on the Poland pilgrimage would require an additional two weeks of quarantine on our return. We are building an alternative program which can be conducted in Israel.

We are developing alternatives to some of the field trips, to reduce the exposure to large numbers of people. Whether we use the original plan, or the alternative

will depend on the situation at the time. In either case, our trips will be approved by the authorities ahead of time.

At this stage, the Ministry of Health recommends against families hosting outsiders. If this doesn't change, we encourage family members and friends who live in Israel to come and visit the students on Tzuba, while maintaining social distancing.

Finally, as things stand at the moment, it will not be possible to conduct a parents' trip, due to the quarantine requirements.

Before coming to Israel

We strongly recommend that in the two weeks prior to the start of the semester, students try to limit the number of people with whom they come into contact and (as always) practice really strict social distancing, wear a mask and are scrupulous in terms of washing their hands regularly.

Approximately 4 days before departure, we recommend (where possible) that the students be tested for Corona virus.